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Letter dated 25 January 2005 from the Permanent Representative of Serbia and Montenegro to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to transmit herewith a copy of the letter that Svetozar Marović, President of the State Union of Serbia and Montenegro, addressed to the Secretary-General (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would circulate the present letter and its annex as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Nebojša **Kaludjerović**
Permanent Representative

05-22087 (E) 270105

Annex to the letter dated 25 January 2005 from the Permanent Representative of Serbia and Montenegro to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

21 January 2005

I am writing to inform you of the conclusions of the Government of Serbia concerning the difficult situation in Kosovo and Metohija, administered by the United Nations under Security Council resolution 1244 (1999).

In that regard, I would like to point out the fact that for over a month now, under very harsh winter conditions, several Serbian villages have been deprived of power supply, bringing into question the very physical survival of several hundred men, women and children. The Serb population is at stake, whose human rights and basic security have already been seriously threatened, especially after the outbreak of ethnically motivated violence in March 2004.

After the President and the Prime Minister of the Republic of Serbia had on a number of occasions pointed out the gravity of the situation to your Special Representative, on 17 January 2005 they appealed on him once again to intercede so that the power would be restored, thus protecting human lives. The Serbian authorities proposed that the problem be resolved in negotiations which would start as soon as possible, whereby the power would be restored immediately in order to prevent further suffering of the population, and your Special Representative, Søren Jessen-Petersen, promised to do all within his powers the very next day. Unfortunately, despite the very low temperatures the situation remained the same and no information was received in that respect, while the lives of the residents of Lipljan, Batuse and Priluzje, especially of the elderly and children, are still severely at risk.

I myself spoke to Mr. Jessen-Petersen on the phone yesterday and was given assurances that he would take all necessary measures to solve the problem as soon as possible, which would, we both agreed, contribute to confidence-building and reducing insecurity among the non-Albanian population in Kosovo and Metohija.

You are aware that two thirds of the Serbian population has been expelled from Kosovo and Metohija and that to date they have not been enabled to return to their homes. Depriving the remaining Serb population of power at the height of winter further discourages returns and brings additional pressure on the Serbs to leave Kosovo and Metohija.

What I would like to emphasize in particular is that I was informed by the Government of Serbia that it stands ready to do whatever is necessary, in terms of supply of power, technical services or financial support, as soon as approved by UNMIK or persons authorized by you.

In view of the fact that by assuming the mandate for Kosovo and Metohija the United Nations has undertaken, above all else, to protect and make easier the lives of its citizens, I am certain that you will use all your powers and intercede with your representatives so that this dramatically serious problem may be resolved.

I hope that you will understand the urgency of this appeal.

(*Signed*) Svetozar **Marović**